

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7609

Petition of New England Power Company, d/b/a)
National Grid, for a Certificate of Public Good,)
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248(j), authorizing)
the so-called E205W Transmission Line)
Reconductoring and Refurbishment Project in the)
Towns of Readsboro and Whitingham, Vermont)

Order entered: 10/19/2010

ORDER RE: PROJECT MODIFICATIONS AND PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY

On July 19, 2010, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued an Order and a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") in this Docket authorizing the construction of the E205W transmission line reconductoring and refurbishment project in the Towns of Readsboro and Whitingham, Vermont. Consistent with the conditions of the CPG, New England Power Company, d/b/a National Grid ("NEP"), filed a letter and supporting materials on October 12, 2010, requesting approval of proposed project modifications. NEP also requested that the Board determine that, based on the results of the Phase IB archaeological study, no further mitigation is needed for impacts to archaeological resources. NEP requested a Board determination by October 19, 2010, so that NEP could begin construction of the project during a planned outage, beginning on October 20, 2010.

On October 13, 2010, the Clerk of the Board issued a memorandum stating that any comments on NEP's filing should be submitted by October 18, 2010.

On October 18, 2010, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department") submitted comments on NEP's October 12 filing. The Department recommended that the Board approve the proposed modifications.

No other comments were submitted.

NEP's October 12, 2010, filing and attachments include a description of the proposed project modifications ("PPM"). The PPM include several changes to access routes that will be followed to reach certain portions of the project right-of-way ("ROW"). The PPM also include

six work pads along the ROW that were not described in the previously submitted testimony. These work pads will measure 50 feet by 50 feet, may require timber matting to create a level surface, and will be used for conductor pulling and tensioning operations. Based on the October 12 filing and attachments and the previously submitted testimony and evidence, we conclude that the proposed project modifications are consistent with the findings and conclusion of the Board's July 19, 2010 Order. The same construction practices and mitigation measures established in that Order must be utilized in the project as modified.

The Phase IB Archaeological Identification Survey ("Survey") found there to be no significant archaeological resources in the proposed project impact areas and that there would be no adverse impacts on archaeological properties. Based on these findings, as well as the previously submitted testimony and evidence, we conclude that no further mitigation is needed for impacts to archeological resources provided that the site avoidance and protection plan described in the Survey is implemented.

NEP's proposed project modifications are approved, and we hereby determine that no further mitigation is needed for impacts to archeological resources. However, we note that in requesting such an expeditious review by the Board, NEP should have coordinated with the other parties. Had NEP done so, the other parties could have had an opportunity to review NEP's proposed project modifications and archaeological study prior to NEP filing with the Board and NEP could have included the other parties' comments in its filing.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this 19th day of October, 2010.

<u>s/ James Volz</u>)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: October 19, 2010

ATTEST: s/ Judith C. Whitney
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Notice to Readers: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.